

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the first paragraph on page 1, starting at line 12 (i.e., the new paragraph added by Amendment A):

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/372,399, entitled ATTENTION MANAGER FOR OCCUPYING THE PERIPHERAL ATTENTION OF A PERSON IN THE VICINITY OF A DISPLAY DEVICE, filed August 10, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/620,641, filed March 22, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,034,652, ~~which co-pending application is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.~~

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

68. (Twice Amended) A method for engaging the peripheral attention of a person in the vicinity of a display device, comprising the steps of:

providing one or more sets of content data to the display device or to a content display system associated with the display device;

providing to the display device or to the content display system a set of instructions for enabling the display device to selectively display, in an unobtrusive manner that does not distract a user of the display device or ~~the~~ an apparatus associated with the display device from a primary interaction with the display device or apparatus, an image or images generated from a set of content data; and

auditing the display of sets of content data by the display device;

wherein the one or more sets of content data are selected from a plurality of sets of content data, each set being provided by an associated content provider, wherein each associated content provider provides its content data directly to the display device or to the content display system, and wherein for each set the respective content provider may provide scheduling instructions tailored to the set of content data to control at least one of the duration, sequencing, and/or timing of the display of said image or images generated from the set of content data.

70. (Twice Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more computer programs for enabling engagement of the peripheral attention of a person in the vicinity of a display device, comprising:

instructions for providing one or more sets of content data to the display device or to a content display system associated with the display device;

instructions for providing to the display device ~~and/or~~ to the content display system a set of instructions for enabling the display device to selectively display, in an unobtrusive manner that does not distract a user of the display device or ~~the~~ an apparatus associated with the display device from a primary interaction with the display device or apparatus, an image or images generated from a set of content data; and

instructions for auditing the display of sets of content data by the display device;

wherein the one or more sets of content data are selected from a plurality of sets of content data, each set being provided by an associated content provider, wherein each associated content provider provides its content data directly to the display device or to the content display system, and wherein for each set the respective content provider may provide scheduling instructions tailored to the set of content data to control at least one of the duration, sequencing, and/or timing of the display of said image or images generated from the set of content data.

72. (Twice Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more computer programs for enabling engagement of the peripheral attention of a person in the vicinity of a display device, comprising:

instructions for acquiring a set of content data from a content providing system;

instructions for detecting an idle period of predetermined duration; and

instructions for selectively displaying on the display device, after detection of the idle period and in an unobtrusive manner that does not distract a user of the display device or an apparatus associated with the display device from a primary interaction with the display device or apparatus, an image or images generated from the set of content data;

wherein the set of content data is selected from a plurality of sets of content data, each set being provided by an associated content provider, wherein each associated content provider provides its content data directly to the display device or to the content display system, and wherein for each set the respective content provider may provide scheduling instructions tailored to the set of content data to control at least one of the duration, sequencing, and/or timing of the display of said image or images generated from the set of content data.

74. (Twice Amended) A system for engaging the peripheral attention of a person in the vicinity of a display device, comprising:

data acquisition apparatus that enables acquisition of a set of content data;

display apparatus that effects selective display on the display device, in an unobtrusive manner that does not distract a user of the display device or an apparatus associated with the display device from a primary interaction with the display device or apparatus, of an image or images generated from the set of content data;

user input apparatus that enables selection by a user of one or more control options during the selective display of the image or images generated from the set of content data; and

a system control device that controls aspects of the operation of the system in accordance with a selected control option;

wherein the set of content data is selected from a plurality of sets of content data, each set being provided by an associated content provider, wherein each associated content provider provides its content data directly to the display device or to the content display system, and wherein for each set the respective content provider may provide scheduling instructions tailored to the set of content data to control at least one of the duration, sequencing, and/or timing of the display of said image or images generated from the set of content data.

77. (Twice Amended) A method for engaging the peripheral attention of a person in the vicinity of a display device, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a set of content data from a content providing system;

selectively displaying on the display device, in an unobtrusive manner that does not distract a user of the display device or an apparatus associated with the display device from a primary interaction with the display device or apparatus, an image or images generated from the set of content data;

enabling selection by a user of one or more control options during the selective display of the image or images generated from the set of content data; and

controlling aspects of the operation of the system in accordance with a selected control option;

wherein the set of content data is selected from a plurality of sets of content data, each set being provided by an associated content provider, wherein each associated content provider provides its content data directly to the display device or to the content display system, and wherein for each set the respective content provider may provide scheduling instructions tailored to the set of content data to control at least one of the duration, sequencing, and/or timing of the display of said image or images generated from the set of content data.

80. (Twice Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more computer programs for enabling engagement of the peripheral attention of a person in the vicinity of a display device, comprising:

instructions for acquiring a set of content data from a content providing system;

instructions for selectively displaying on the display device, in an unobtrusive manner that does not distract a user of the display device or an apparatus associated with the display device from a primary interaction with the display device or apparatus, an image or images generated from the set of content data;

instructions for enabling selection by a user of one or more control options during the selective display of the image or images generated from the set of content data; and

instructions for controlling aspects of the operation of the system in accordance with a selected control option;

wherein the set of content data is selected from a plurality of sets of content data, each set being provided by an associated content provider, wherein each associated content provider provides its content data directly to the display device or to the content display system, and wherein for each set the respective content provider may provide scheduling instructions tailored to the set of content data to control at least one of the duration, sequencing, and/or timing of the display of said image or images generated from the set of content data.